



# Brendan Power News

Dec 2017 

## Christmas Greetings One and All!

Hope you've had a good year - 2017 has certainly been a busy one for me. It included a big reorganisation of how we do things at Power Central - separating R&D and production areas, which were in the same space and crowding into each other, messy! I've now set up a Pocket Factory in my garden shed with three 3d printers and other tools where David Ireland, my website guru, business partner and good friend does the production/posting. It gives me more space and time to be madly inventing/testing. This new arrangement has allowed us to get more crazy harmonica stuff out into the world! Here's a sample of what's emerged since the last newsletter:

## New Products

### ➤ DIATONIC TWIN-HARMONICAS

I adapted my [TwinHarmonica System](#) to small diatonic harps, opening up a lot of possibilities for completely new harmonicas! Most have two harps stacked one above the other behind a single mouthpiece.



The simplest is the [OctaHarp](#), two 10-hole diatonics an octave apart (e.g. Hohner Crossover/Thunderbird, or Suzuki Manji/Low Manji). It can also be configured as a [TremoloHarp](#), or you could have two harps a fifth apart - it's up to you. It really sounds great: rich double-reed sounds in the small 10-hole format for the first time!

The [Switch-Harp](#) has a patent-pending airtight

mouthpiece/slider on the front, allowing the two harps behind to be selected at will. This has LOTS of options: a mini-chromatic, two harps in widely different keys, different tunings, even different setups (un-valved/half-valved). It's really cool to hear the new suggestions coming in for the Switch-Harp, some I'd never thought of before.

Coming up soon is the UniBender, a TwinDiatonic with a patent-pending valve strip in the mouthpiece. It opens up many options: the main one I had in mind being an all-bending 10 hole diatonic with 20 active reeds and 20 X-Reeds. This format means it can be made in many keys and tunings, according to what the owner desires. Universal note bending in a small 10-hole harp - the harmonica player's dream is now a reality.

Last but not least, I've created an inline TwinDiatonic too: the [OctaHarp Selectable](#). This unique harp allows you to play just a single harmonica or two at the same time, with a quick flick of the wrist. Intended for Octave playing, it could also be configured in other ways. It's a lot of fun!

### ➤ DIATONIC POWER-COMBS and STEALTH-VALVES



On the back of the success of my 3d printed chromatic PowerCombs, I've launched a range of [PowerCombs for diatonics](#) of many kinds and brands. They have valve-pockets to allow easy half- or full valving, and my new [Stealth-Valve kit](#) makes it easy and quick to valve any diatonic harp. Valving helps performance on many of the TwinDiatonics, and the Stealth-Valves are half-price with them.

## Questions?

We have a friendly [discussion forum](#).

Our [FAQ](#) is frequently updated.

Check our [News Page](#) to keep up-to-date with latest product releases.

Email us at [enquiries@brendan-power.com](mailto:enquiries@brendan-power.com)

## ➤ DM48 MIDI HARMONICA ACCESSORIES

I love the new Lekholm DM48 MIDI harmonica, but missed the ability to bend notes on it. I created a [Mini PitchBender](#) stick-on unit with electronics expert Tim Jacobs, and it makes the instrument so much more expressive.

It has three down-bends (1/2/3 semitones) and now includes Modulation (vibrato) as well! So great to have all that expression available to add to any note. To make the DM48 more user-friendly for diatonic harp players I also designed a small [10-hole mouthpiece](#) complete with metal harp covers, so it feels instantly comfortable.



Combined with the Mini PitchBender you can now play MIDI harmonica much more as you would a blues harp.

## ➤ LUCKY 13 ALTERNATE TUNINGS

The Lucky 13 has proven very popular, and is now available in [three of my alt-tunings](#) that are gaining fans around the world: PowerDraw and PowerBender (all 12 keys) and Paddy Richter (G,C,D). They all have silver covers without side holes, for a mellower sound. I've also released a [PowerComb](#) and [Stealth-Valves](#) for the Lucky 13, plus a [Switch-Harp](#) version! If you haven't tried the Lucky 13 give it a go in 2018 - I'm sure you'll enjoy having that extra bottom-end range tacked on to your normal harp.

## New Music

### ➤ HARMONICA and BUTTON-BOX ALBUM

In between designing/making stuff I also recorded a new album with my long-term musical buddy, the brilliant Tim Edey. The title says it all: just a simple mix of these two free-reed instruments. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts - [have a listen!](#)

## Other Cool Stuff

### ➤ RECOMMENDED CUSTOMISERS

If you don't have the skills to do the assembly work yourself for the TwinDiatonics, I've teamed up with [three excellent customisers](#) to do the work for you, and add their magic touches: Joel Andersson (Hohner), Boris Plotnikov (Seydel) and Sergey Zhernosek (Suzuki/Easttop). They all have a high reputation for high-quality work and great customer service - your harp will come to you the best it can be.

### ➤ DISCUSSION FORUM

If you haven't seen it already we have created a [discussion forum](#) for players to ask questions and share information, ideas, experiences, videos etc. It is proving a hit with over 150 topics already started!

## Coming Up Soon...

I have a bunch of new harmonica designs in the pipeline for 2018. Among them are a radical new type of chromatic harmonica, as well as two different systems that take the regular 10-hole Richter diatonic and boost its features and playability enormously. I think they will be welcomed by traditional harp players with open arms - watch this space!

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and happy Christmas, and a great year ahead.

Bye for now.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan Power". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Get in touch**

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